

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0178

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, HU

SUBJECT: CALL ON DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY - EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION

1. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT NOTIFY EMBASSY AS TO STATUS OF GOH PROBLEM ON CONSTRUCTION OF WASHINGTON EMBASSY AND THAT IT TAKE WHATEVER STEPS IT CAN TO ASSIST HUNGARIANS IN RESOLVING MATTER.

2. DURING MY CALL ON NAGY SEPTEMBER 14 HE RAISED GOH PROBLEM IN CONSTRUCTING CHANCERY IN WASHINGTON. HE RELATED HIS LONG STRUGGLE TO FIND SUITABLE SITE, CONTRACT FOR SALE, AND ARRANGE FOR ZONING PERMIT. HE ALLEGED THAT AFTER PERMIT WAS GRANTED FOR THEM TO BUILD ON 40 PERCENT OF LAND IN 1972 GOH EXERCISED OPTION TO BUY. NOW IN 1973 ZONING BOARD CHANGED INTERPRETATION OF ORDNANCE AND HAS INFORMED THEM THY CAN ONLY BUILD ON 20 PERCENT OF LAND IF THEY BUILD TWO STORIES (AS THEY INTEND). THIS WOULD MAKE BUILDING PROHIBITIVELY SMALL. HE SAID GOH ALSO CONSIDERS ALTERNATIVE SITE OFFERED AT FORMER BUREAU OF STANDARDS TOO EXPENSIVE, TOO SMALL AND TOO INDIFINITE AS TO TIME OF AVAILABILITY.

3. NAGY SAID THAT SINCE HE PERSONALLY NEGOTIATED FOR PURCHASE AND RECEIVED ZONING PERMIT, HIS PRESTIGE ON LINE IN MATTER. HE SAID THAT DEPT HAD TOLD THEIR EMBASSY WE COULD BE OF NO ASSISTANCE. COMMENTED THAT ONE OF FUNCTIONS OF FONMINS WAS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER'S GOVTs AND HE WAS SURE WE COULD BE HELPFUL, EVEN INFORMALLY, IF WE WISHED. NOTED

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THAT HUNGARY HAD ITS SHARE OF BUREAUCRACY AND THAT IF THEY

REFUSED TO HELP EMBASSY HERE WE WOULD FIND BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS WITH THEIR LOCAL OFFICIALS TO BE EXTREMELY COMPLICATED.

4. I TOLD HIM WE WOULD GET ALL AVAILABLE FACTS AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE BY DEPT TO HELP ON THEIR PROBLEM.

5. I ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE NUMBER OF PROPERTY PROBLEMS WE HAD HERE, SOME OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THEM, OTHERS TO US, AND THAT I WOULD WANT TO TALK ABOUT THESE WHEN I WAS BETTER INFORMED ON THEM.

6. OVER NEXT FEW YEARS EMBASSY WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE DIFFICULT PROPERTY CASES HERE AND WILL NEED TO SECURE NEW HOUSING FOR STAFF. RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS HERE WOULD INDEED BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT (I SUPPOSE IN FACT IMPOSSIBLE) WITHOUT FONMIN ASSISTANCE, AND I HOPE THAT, ASSUMING STATED FACTS ARE ACCURATE (I.E. THAT ZONING DECISION IN FACT CHANGED AFTER THEIR PURCHASE), THAT DEPT CAN BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO HUNGARIANS I GETTING THEIR CASE STRAIGHTENED OUT. NAGY SAID THEY HAD GOOD LAWYER OUT CLEARLY FEELS FAVORABLE EXPRESSION NEEDED FROM DEPT.

PEDERSEN

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